

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0617

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 1219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: RAMAY AND KHAR ANNOUNCE FOUR POINT PROGRAM

REF: LAHORE 1215

1. AT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN LAHORE OCTOBER 22,
FORMER PPP LEADERS RAMAY AND KHAR ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING NEW
FOUR-POINT PROGRAM TO "DECIDE FINAL LINES OF STRUGGLE AGAINST
GOVERNMENT:"

(A) PAKISTAN SHALL BE AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC,

(?) IT SHALL BE A FEDERATION WITH AUTONOMY TO ALL
FEDERATING UNITS,

(C) IT SHALL HAVE AN ECONOMY BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF
"FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS CAPACITY, TO EACH
ACCORDING TO HIS WORK,"

(D) IT SHALL BE A SOCIETY WITH FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO
ALL ITS CITIZENS.

PAIR REPORTEDLY SAID THEY INTEND APPROACH ALL POLITICAL
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ELEMENTS IN FOUR PAK PROVINCES, INCLUDING PPP MEMBERS,

"FOR A JOINT AND ORGANIZED STRUGGLE," ON BASIS OF THESE FOUR POINTS. KHAR WENT FURTHER BY SAYING THAT CONFERENCE OF POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD BE HELD AFTER PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, AND A NEW POLITICAL PARTY MIGHT BE FORMED.

2. RAISING OTHER CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNMENT, RAMAY AND KHAR DEMANDED REMOVAL OF STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY (NOT WITHDRAWN AFTER BHUTTO'S ACCESSION TO POWER IN 1971), ASSIMILATION OF FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE INTO REGULAR ARMED FORCES, BREAK-UP OF NATIONAL PRESS TRUST AND A JUDICIAL ENQUIRY INTO TAJPURA ELECTION INCIDENT BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE. RAMAY READ WRITTEN STATEMENT PROCLAIMING THAT PAKISTAN WAS "AT A NEW CROSSROAD," ASSERTING THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A MOCKERY OF CONSTITUTION AND THAT PRESENT POLITICAL LEADERS HAD BEEN BEHIND CERTAIN CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER AYUB AND YAHYA REGIMES. HE CALLED FOR NATION-WIDE STRUGGLE, BUT ONE WHICH REMAINED WITHIN CONSTITUTION AND DID NOT FOMENT ANARCHY OR DISORDER.

3. RAMAY, FIELDING QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPLICIT DISREGARD OF "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM" IN FOUR-POINT PROGRAM, SAID CONTROVERSY OVER WHAT CONSTITUTED ISLAMIC SOCIALISM AND OTHER KINDS OF SOCIALISM WAS FUTILE. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT ISLAMIC SOCIALISM WAS NOT PART OF PROGRAM; KHAR REPORTEDLY CONCURRED, SAYING "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM IS NOTHING." RAMAY ASSERTED THAT FOUR-POINT PROGRAM WOULD RESCUE NATION FROM DEBATE ON THIS POINT AND CARRY IT FORWARD ON PROGRESSIVE LINES.

4. FURTHER QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT ALLEGED RESIGNATION OF MIAN IFTIKHAR AHMAD TARI (MPA), A CLOSE KHAR SUPPORTER, FROM PUNJAB ASSEMBLY TO MAKE ROOM FOR ANOTHER TRY BY KHAR. KHAR REPLIED THAT TARI'S RESIGNATION PAPERS WERE ACTUALLY BEING KEPT IN A "DISTANT PLACE" FROM LAHORE, BUT WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY "SOON" (LAHORE 1215). KHAR ALSO DENIED USING FORCE TO INDUCE POLLING OFFICER TO TESTIFY AT EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT GOVERNMENT ELECTION MALPRACTICES. (ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS HAD CARRIED OFFICER'S DETAILED REPUDIATION OF HIS EARLIER ACCOUNT OF GOVERNMENT ELECTION IRREGULARITIES.)
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5. COMMENT: NEW FOUR-POINT PROGRAM REPRESENTS FIRST ATTEMPT BY KHAR AND RAMAY TO DEVELOP COHERENT PLATFORM. WHILE FOUR POINTS ARE UNEXCEPTIONABLE IN PAKISTANI CONTEXT, THEY OFFER LITTLE TANGIBLE OR NEW. UNDER PRESENT CONSTITUTION, COUNTRY IS ALREADY ISLAMIC REPUBLIC WITH FEDERAL STRUCTURE AND, ALTHOUGH FREQUENTLY OBSERVED IN BREACH BY GOVERNMENT, PROVIDES FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS. THIRD POINT

DEALING WITH ECONOMICS -- "FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS CAPACITY,
TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORK" -- APPEARS TO BE CURIOUS
REVISION OF CLASSIC MARXIST FORMULA WITH LITTLE SUGGESTION OF
SOCIALIST THEORY OR PRACTICE. MAY REPRESENT UNTIDY
COMPROMISE BETWEEN RAMAY'S DOCTRINAIRE SOCIALISM AND KHAR'S
REACTIONARY POLITICAL POSTURE. WHAT APPEARS TO BE EMERGING
IS UMBRELLA PLATFORM UNDER WHICH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS OF
VARIOUS PERSUASIONS COULD RALLY TO CONFRONT GOVERNMENT.
MOST IRONIC SO FAR IS APPARENT COOPERATION BETWEEN RAMAY AND
KHAR, UNTIL RECENTLY BITTER POLITICAL ANTAGONISTS, WHICH
DRAMATIZES (1) DEPTH OF MUTUAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD BHUTTO'S
CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AND (2) POTENTIALITY FOR THEIR PICKING
UP MORE SUPPORT FROM SCATTERED DISAFFECTED OPPOSITION
ELEMENTS.
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